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American Embassy
Caracas, Venezuela, April 8, 1941

No. 837

Subject: Colombian-Venezuelan Border Treaty

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SAS 6/12/41

721.3115/154

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my telegram No. 62 of April 5, 1941 and to transmit herewith the text, as published in Caracas newspapers, of the border treaty See Encl. 3 signed at Cucuta, Colombia, on April 5, 1941 by the Ministers of Foreign Relations of Colombia and Venezuela, as well as the published text of the speeches made on the same day by the Presidents of the two countries when they met in the middle of the International Bridge at San Antonio, Venezuela.

President

President Lopez Contreras was accompanied to the border by a sizeable group of Government officials and by the chiefs of missions of the Bolivarian nations at Caracas, and from the day of his departure, April 2nd, until today the newspapers have devoted extensive space to the event. As stated in the telegram above referred to, April 5th was proclaimed a holiday and all Government offices, banks and business establishments were closed.

Despite the importance attached to the event by the Government, and the inherent significance of peaceful settlement of a century-old border problem at a time when Germany's clamor for "vital space" has caused such a holocaust in Europe, there has been but little comment in the newspapers or on the part of the public as to what Venezuela may be obtaining or giving up. The Government naturally is pleased that this controversial matter is at last concluded, but the essence of public reaction is confined almost wholly to a feeling of pride that this small Republic has set a further example of democracy.

In addition to the enclosures mentioned above there also are transmitted herewith, as of possible future interest, a set of issues of El Universal from April 4th to 7th, inclusive.

Respectfully yours,

Frank P. Corrigan

Enclosures:

1. Text of President Lopez Contreras' speech
2. Text of President Santos' speech,
3. Text of Colombian-Venezuelan Border Treaty.
- >4. El Universal, April 4th to April 7th issues.

① The April 6, 1941 number contains the Spanish text of the Treaty but not maps which were annexed

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